

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) For the controlled dispensing of fluids from deformable containers, an automatically closing valve formed as a single piece of elastomeric material and comprising a tubular skirt, one end of which is profiled to present an edge engagable in a ring cap to be mounted at a discharge hole provided in each container, the other end of the tubular skirt being closed by a dome or transverse wall in which cuts are provided to define flexible appendices therein, the edges of which are in mutual sealed contact in the closed valve, wherein when the valve is in its rest state, said dome or transverse wall is defined by curved surfaces re-entrant into the interior of the cavity in the tubular skirt which, at least in proximity to said dome or transverse wall, has an annular portion thereof of such a shape and thickness as to enable it to dilate and to flex elastically outwards when the dome or transverse wall passes from its form re-entrant into the skirt, to firstly a flat form and then to a form in which said appendices are flexed outwards, withdrawing from each other, under the thrust of the compressed fluid emerging from the container, said annular portion of the tubular skirt acting with elastic force on said dome or transverse wall to urge it towards its rest position curved in the interior of the tubular skirt and with said flexible appendices sealedly pressed against each other, wherein the valve is configured such that only the dome or transverse wall moves upward during opening of the valve.

2. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein said annular portion of the tubular skirt is of small axial extension at and in proximity to said dome or transverse wall.

3. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of

said dome or transverse wall is greater in proximity to the tubular skirt than in the central region of the dome or transverse wall.

4. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein the thickness of said dome or transverse wall is greater in proximity to the tubular skirt than in the central region of the dome or transverse wall.

5. (Currently Amended) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein a tubular portion of the tubular skirt has a varying thickness.

6. (Currently Amended) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular portion has a thickness that is smaller than a thickness of a middle portion of a tubular portion of the tubular skirt.

7. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular skirt has an outer surface, the outer surface being recessed at the annular portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A closing valve comprising:

a tubular skirt having a first end adapted to mount to a discharge hole of a container, the tubular skirt having a second end attached to a wall with cuts therein defining flexible appendices, the flexible appendices having edges that are configured to be in mutual sealed contact when the valve is in a closed orientation so that the wall closes the second end of the tubular skirt,

wherein the tubular skirt has a first portion attached to the wall, the first portion having a thickness that is smaller than a thickness of a middle portion of a tubular portion of the tubular skirt,

wherein the first portion of the skirt is configured to provide elastic force on the wall

to urge the valve towards the closed orientation, and

wherein the valve is a single piece of elastomeric material.

9. (Currently Amended) A closing valve comprising:

a tubular skirt having a first end adapted to mount to a discharge hole of a container, the tubular skirt having a second end attached to a wall with cuts therein defining flexible appendices, the flexible appendices being configured to flex outwards when the valve is in the open orientation and having edges that are configured to be in mutual sealed contact when the valve is in a closed orientation so that the wall closes the second end of the tubular skirt,

~~wherein the tubular skirt has an outer surface, the tubular skirt having a recessed portion where the outer surface thereof is recessed, the recessed portion being at the second end adjacent to the wall~~ the valve is configured such that only the wall having flexible appendices moves upward when the valve moves from the closed orientation to the open orientation, ~~wherein the recessed portion is configured to provide elastic force on the wall to urge the valve towards the closed orientation, and~~

wherein the valve is a single piece of elastomeric material.